

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8981

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU, US

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: DEPUTY ASST.SEC.BLAKE CONVERSATION AT FONMIN

REF: (A) STATE 031037; (B) STAT 030983

1. DURING MY CALL TODAY ON DEPUTY FONMINISTER OKAI, WHO RECEIVED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE IN ABSENCE FONMIN DENNIS, WHO HAD SUDDENLY BEEN CALLED TO EXECUTIVE MANSION, BLAKE, REINFORCING APPROACH MADE BY CHARGE FEB. 9 TO FONMIN DENNIS, DREW ON REFTELS TO DESCRIBE U.S. POSITION ON ANGOLAN PROBLEM AND TO CORRECT ANY MISAPPREHENSION RE U.S. POSITION AS RESULT WASHINGTON POST STORY. OKAI, WHO WAS FLANKED BY D. ELWOOD DUNN, ASSISTANT FONMIN AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO DENNIS, AND CHARLES A. COOPER, ASST. MINISTER FOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS, LISTENED INTENTLY AND EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POSITION.

2. OKAI THEN ENTERED INTO LONG DISCOURSE RE TRAGIC CHARACTER ANGOLA CONFLICT, PARTICULARLY SETTING OF "BROTHERS AGAINST BROTHERS". AFTER NOTING SINGIFICANT MILITARY ADVANCES BY MPLA (WHICH BLAKE POINTED OUT ARE BEING SPEARHEADED BY CUBANS) OKAI FRANKLY EXPRESSED HIS INABILITY SEE ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION TO ANGOLAN PROBLEM. AT SAME TIME, HE GAVE NO INDICATION LIBERIA INTENDS TO SHIFT ITS PRESENT STANCE AND SPECIFICALLY REAFFIRMED LIBERIA'S POLICY AS PARALLEL TO THAT OF U.S. HE DESCRIBED

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RECENT SHIFT BY SIERRA LEONS AS QTE SURPRISE UNQTE AND EXPRESSED

VIEW IT WAS RESULT QTE HEAVY PRESSURE UNQTE.

3. COOPER ASKED BLAKE WHAT USG WOULD DO IF CONGRESS DID NOT PROVIDE AUTHORIZATION FOR OVERT FUNDING FOR ANGOLAN PROBLEM. COOPER NOTED THAT EVEN IF CONGRESS DID COMPLY WITH ANY SUCH REQUEST, FUNDING MIGHT COME TOO LATE TO EFFECT FAVORABLE OUTCOME IN ANGOLA. HE STRESSED THAT GIVEN DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION, IF HELP WAS TO BE GIVEN, TIMING WAS ESSENTIAL. IN REPLY, BLAKE NOTED STRONG EFFORT SECRETARY WAS CONTINUING TO MAKE WITH PUBLIC AND CONGRESS TO ASSURE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES INVOLVED IN ANGOLAN PROBLEM. IT WAS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT OUTCOME OF THESE EFFORTS. IN MEANTIME, AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES SHOULD BEGIN TO ASK MORE SERIOUSLY WHAT THEY WOULD DO IF CONFRONTED BY REGIME IN LUANDA THAT OWED ITS EXISTENCE TO SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION.

4. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH OKAI'S ASSURANCE GOL WISHES TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH USG ON ANGOLA. BLAKE SAID USG, FOR ITS PART, WILL CONTINUE APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INSIGHTS AND ADVANCE INDICATIONS OF AFRICAN VIEWS WHICH GOL MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON CHANGING SITUATION.

5. DEPT. MAY WISH TO REPORT TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.
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